

# western cape scouter



March 2022





# contents

Contents.....	2	Winning Rayner PL's Thoughts.....	26
Editor's Desk .....	3	Kanonkop District Fun Day .....	26
RC's Reflections .....	3	Tokai Park Alien Clearing .....	27
Beach Cleanup .....	3	Helmsman Badge Course .....	28
Milly Siebrits Farewell .....	4	Adventure in Neverland .....	30
Holiday Hike Programme.....	5	Meerkat Kon-Tiki Pirates .....	31
Jambo'niqua 2021 .....	6	On my PLs Discoverer Hike .....	32
1st Somerset West Troop Camp.	10	Cub Kon-Tiki Competition .....	33
Water Activity Licence Course.....	12	Hiking Foods - Always Hungry .....	34
Matthew's Service Project .....	14	Tree Felling at Gugulethu.....	35
1st Durbanville Troop Camp .....	15	Kon-Tiki Apocalypse.....	36
Founder's Day .....	16	The Golden Mole Route Hike .....	38
Lifesaver Badge Course .....	18	Bronze Presidents Award .....	39
Scout Shows .....	20	Springbok Scouts.....	40
Pioneering Badge Course .....	21	Regional Contact List.....	40
Rayner Trophy.....	22		

## editor's desk

Make sure you read the Jambo'niqua 2021 article which highlights the fantastic experience had by Scouts and Guides in the Outeniqua district, George. Of course though, you should read all the other articles too!



It is most pleasing to see how there is so much Scouting activity on the go with the lifting of some Covid restrictions. We have seen large events being the Rayner Trophy and the Kon-Tiki raft building weekend take place which Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts and judges enjoyed. Currently PLTU is running. Badge courses have resumed in a big way. Sandvlei is open again. There is truly much joy to be had in Scouting as we slowly move into a hopefully new and less restrictive phase of the pandemic.

There are so many fantastic and happy scouting stories to be told and once again some of these are reflected in this edition of the Western Cape Scouter. Perhaps there are other untold stories so you are always welcome to send them to me. The closing date for the next Western Cape Scouter is 24 June 2022. Many thanks to all the contributors.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter



# regional commissioner's reflections



Once again as I reflect on the many articles, activities, competitions and service to community shared by members in this latest newsletter edition of Western Cape Scouter. I am blown away by the reality of the many selfless hours given by all our volunteer leaders in the Western Cape Region.

Behind the photos and energetic words and pictures lies many hours of planning and preparation. The need for a Plan B (and C, D) with the uncertainties of COVID regulations, weather and water quality in some cases, places added stress on leaders. The administration, permits, consents, budgets whilst essential to ensure our scouts enjoy their activities in a 'Safe from Harm' environment add to a further burden.

But as you will read our leaders roll up their sleeves, get stuck in to bring all these Scouting activities and fun to fruition. So to all those scouters, leaders, parents and behind the scenes crew who work tirelessly to ensure the over 4000 youth members we have in the Western Cape Region have a most memorable and exciting Scouting Experience - a BIG Thank You for what you give to Scouting.

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

## beach cleanup



There is no other way to end the term with 1st Table View, 1st Blaauwberg and 1st Edgemoed doing a cleanup of our beautiful beach. It is always good to make new friends and keep our promise by doing a good turn. We bombarded Blouberg Beach in PURPLE and we walked from the KFC

in Table View to the Doodles Restaurant and back along the Beach. As we started our walk the wind picked up and took us about 20 minutes there, but as we turned around the wind was against us and it was not easy, but we completed the mission with happy faces. That is not where Table View stopped as there was a challenge put out by our cubs to do a tug of war. The old wolves on one side and the cubs and Meerkats on the other. There was no question who was going to win, of course it was the cubs and Meerkats with the old wolves landing face down in the sand. Thank you to 1st Blaauwberg for organising and to many more meet ups.

Charmaine de Kock - Pack Scouter 1st Table View



# milly siebrits farewell

A farewell for the Scouts SA CEO Milly Siebrits, was recently held and attended by members of the Scouts SA board, National dignitaries and members of the Western Cape Regional management team. Brendon Hausberger and Gary Pienaar joined the farewell on Zoom. Milly joined the South African Scout Movement in 2003 as a project manager and became the CEO in 2007.

We wish Milly a very happy stay working for the World Scout Bureau in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. May your family too, enjoy the adventure.

Many thanks to Aussie and Penny Raad for hosting the farewell and providing refreshments.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter





# holiday hike programme

After the success of the Scouting in Schools (SiS) 2021 hike programme, the Western Cape government funded a Holiday Hike programme for learners who were not Scouts. Nine hikes were planned and run by the SiS organisers, SiS interns, Appleton scout camp wardens and Scouting volunteers during the recent school holidays.

Learners were able to enjoy a scouting experience and to engage with the outdoors.

Hikes started at the Appleton campsite, then on to the Signal Hill Kramat where they learned some of the history of the Kramat and Table Mountain. Learners then hiked back past Appleton and around the side of the hill to the Signal Hill lookout point where lovely views of the city and the ocean were to be seen. Robben Island was visible in the distance and parts of Sea Point as well. Great fun was had watching the paragliders launch from Signal Hill.

This was a wonderful opportunity for Western Cape learners to hike and the organisers and SiS interns did a fantastic job. The hikes ran smoothly and were enjoyed by everyone who took part.

Thanks for all the effort put in by the SiS programme as well as the contributions from the Appleton Campsite Wardens.

Lexiy Lancaster - 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew





# jambo'niqua 2021

From 16 to 20 December, 63 Scouts, Guides, Rangers and adult leaders descended on High Ridge Farm in George for 4 days of camping and camaraderie at the Outeniqua District Jamboree – Jambo'niqua. The opening day was a rainy day with a very muddy campsite – participants were encouraged to bring gumboots to traverse the mud. The rain did not, however, dampen any spirits and luckily the weather during the rest of the camp proved to be very pleasant and less muddy.



Participants were allocated to three patrols in each of the two subcamps, Drakensberger and Nguni – named after the two breeds of cattle found on the farm. Patrol names included Cape Beech, Yellowwood and Cape Ash – all indigenous flora found on the farm. Participants came from Cape Town, George, Port Elizabeth and

Gauteng. The jamboree was hosted by Bruce and Dilys Armstrong of 1st George Scouts and Guides respectively, who took the idea of a district jamboree and made it happen and did a great job of ensuring everyone had a fantastic time. Without their planning and hard work, the jamboree would not have been possible.

Activity bases included pioneering, water activities, crafts, hiking, and a very muddy obstacle course. Participants had the option of either a day hike up to the Tierkop Hut in the Outeniqua Mountains, or a shorter walk along a contour path in the mountains above the farm. The day hike began at the Garden Route Dam, and headed into the



mountains. Unfortunately the trail was in poor condition due to the flooding in George during November, but everyone was able to complete their hike.



# jambo'niqua 2021



At the pioneering base each patrol built their own pioneering project, with all the projects shown to the entire camp on the closing day. A travelling seat, swing, and giant seesaw were some of the projects constructed. The crafts base was a pleasant break from the sun and allowed participants to make swaps and key rings to keep



or share with others. The water activities base was also a hit in the hot weather, with swimming, canoeing, and water games, as well as a slip-and-slide. Various requirements towards the Canoeist interest badge were also completed at the water base. The activities were structured so that each patrol got to meet every other

patrol over the course of the jamboree.



# jambo'nicua 2021



Other activities included a fun barn dance at which dancing skills (or lack thereof) could be shown off, an interesting talk about owls featuring a real owl (he was a Spotted Eagle-Owl named Jack), and a presentation on the upcoming World Jamboree in Korea. On the Sunday there was also a short but powerful Guides' and Scouts' Own in the morning. Every evening there were also optional evening activities which included pellet gun shooting, feeding the farm donkeys and model boat sailing. In between these activities participants spent lots of time getting to know each other while cooking, playing games and chatting.

On the last evening, a sunset swim in the dam followed by the closing campfire was a

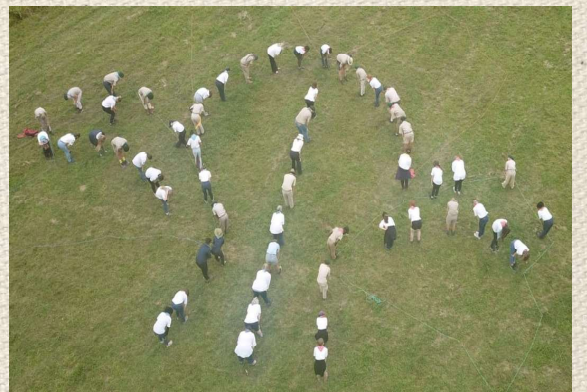
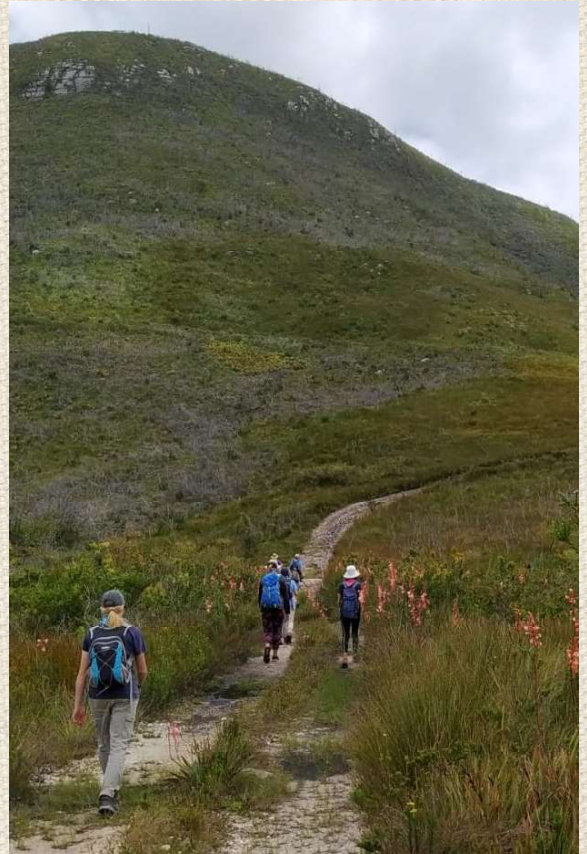
great end to a fantastic event. We all left the jamboree the next morning having made many new friends, and with great stories and memories that will be cherished for many years to come.

Robert Hill - Drakensberger Subcamp Troop Scouter and 1st George Scouts





# jambo'niqua 2021



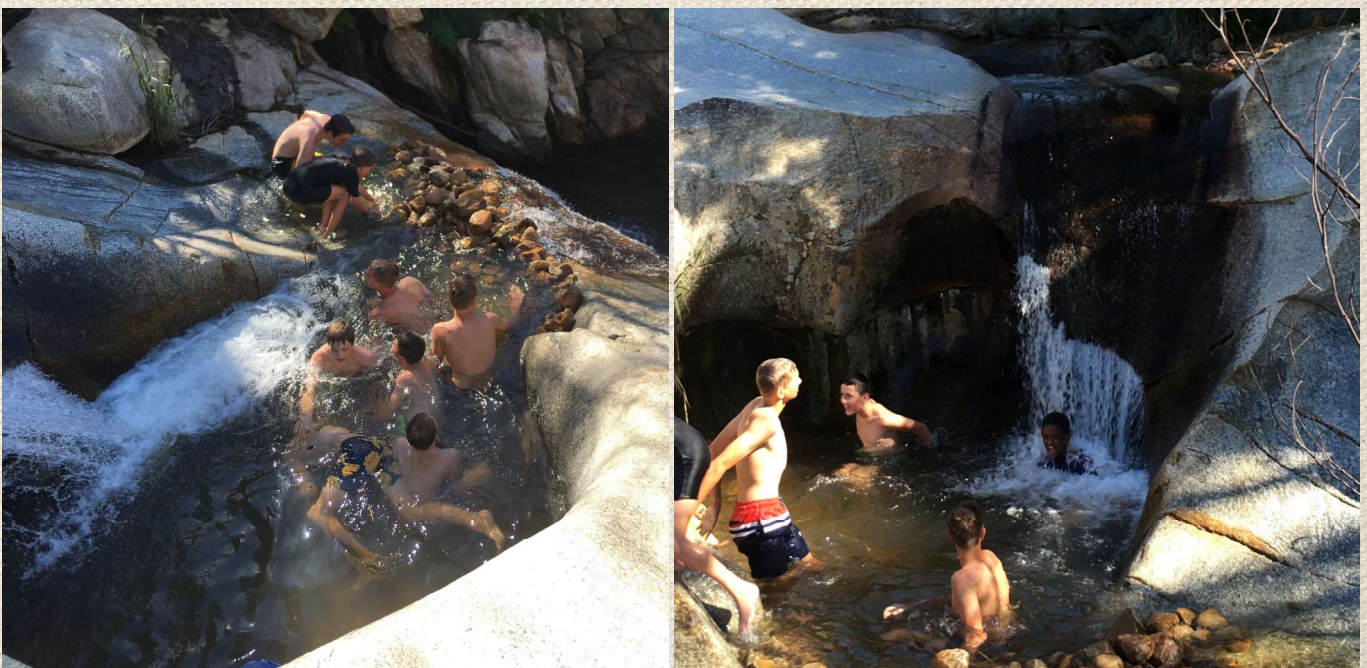


# 1st somerset west troop camp

Traditionally we would camp at a farm in Grabouw, but with the Covid restrictions, we chose Hawequas this year. 3 Patrols made the journey out to the Hawequas in mid December. The first thing that hit us was the heat, and then the wind - being two trying combinations for a camp.

We set up patrol campsites close to Robert hall, which we used as a base. The first day was used to set up camp and get acquainted with the surroundings.

During the next few days we were quite relaxed but also busy, we did a few hours against the slopes removing and clearing alien vegetation. Also included on the camp were a few trips to bum slide river and waterfalls.





# 1st somerset west troop camp



The scouts really enjoyed their time at the river.

At the dam we swam a bit and also built rafts using black bags and staves. We managed to get most of the patrols to float on the rafts, albeit for a few seconds.

During the next few days we were quite

relaxed but also busy, we did a few hours against the slopes removing and clearing alien vegetation. Also included on the camp were a few trips to bum slide river and waterfalls, the scouts really enjoyed their time at the river. At the dam we swam a bit and also built rafts using black bags and staves. We managed to get most of the patrols to float on the rafts, albeit for a few seconds. The raft racing was very exciting as well. Other highlights from the camp included "Priest of the Parish", stalk the lantern and a backwoods evening where scouts built shelters and stayed in them for the night.

Although we had meet Covid rules, we managed to have a great 3 nights just in time for a great Christmas break with our families.

Simon Grantham - Troop Scouter - 1st Somerset West





# water activity licence course



Firstly, the biggest change was the shift in terminology from the old term, Water Charge, to the new term, Water Activity Licence (WAL) where this year's course was used as the platform to announce the terminology change.

The course was held at the SA Navy Sailing Centre in Simon's Town due to the



Zandvlei waterbody closure. This was the first time that the WAL course was done at Sea – this would prepare the participants in the toughest and most extreme environment. 23 participants and 6 instructors arrived on the first day, excited to see what the sailing conditions would be like.





# water activity licence course

After being split into boats and allocated instructors, the boats set off for a lovely introductory sail, with the wind played ball and ending the day off with the reputable capsizing drill.

On the second day, the participants learnt about pulling and were introduced to it practically, followed by some more sailing – this time the wind decided to present more realistic conditions and the boats handled well, with only one broach reported.

The second weekend followed a similar format to the first weekend, where skills were built on and perfected following the previous weekends lessons. The Sunday ended with assessments and the participants were awarded course completion certificates at the closing parade. Well done to the participants for putting the best foot forward and setting an incredibly high standard of seamanship and theoretical knowledge. Here is to many safe water activities and passing on the skills to the next generation.

Special thanks to the following members:

- SA Navy for the use of their facility.
- Stef and Julie from the Sea Scout Base (SSB) for providing A grade catering for the course away from the SSB.
- The instructors, namely: Mark Jennings, David Bosch, Gunther Henshilwood, Wayne Pellew, Jonathan Hanekom, Daniel Skriker – thanks for the high standard of tuition and seamanship standards that you maintained.
- The Rescue boats, namely: Shaun Meyer, Robert Schmid, Gilly Sasman and Damian Sasman. Thanks for providing the boats and your services.

We appreciate all the hard work and dedication all of the staff members provided to make a successful course.

Craig Burchell-Burger - Regional Coordinator Water Activities (Course Leader)





# matthew's service project

A patrol of 1st Durbanville scouts recently helped residents of the Fisantekraal community to plant and maintain several food gardens. This initiative formed part of the Mercy Aids programme which heads up several community kitchens and gardens in local communities. Matthew Stead, a scout at 1st Durbanville, initiated this project as part of his First Class Community Service advancement. "The Fisantekraal community kitchens and gardens initiative started in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Programmes like Mercy Aids saw a great need for food in the Fisantekraal community and decided to help the people grow their own food. They started a number of soup kitchens, but are now trying to close them down and encourage people to have 'food sovereignty'. This means that they will have a steady supply of food, irrespective of losing jobs or not having enough money with which to buy food," said Matthew Stead.

"The recent change of season also means that new seasonal plants need to be introduced. All the winter plants have died so they need to plant vegetables more suited to the summer climate," Stead added. Kay Lorentz, Director of Mercy Aids says: "I would like to take a moment to give a huge shout out to Matthew and his team for coming out to Fisantekraal on Saturday and jumping right into doing whatever needed to be done to upgrade the gardens in our food sovereignty project in that community. Together they got three gardens ready for winter crop and built and planted a new garden from scratch. It was fun to watch different personalities and the team work that emerged on the day".

Matthew and his team of scouts donated seedlings, soil and compost and spent the entire day on Saturday, 19 February planting and maintain various food gardens with residents of the Fisantekraal community.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member





# 1st durbanville troop camp



Sun, swimming and sailing was the order of the day from the moment that the 1st Durbanville troop arrived at Vogelvlei Yacht Club campsite on Voëlvlei Dam near Wellington.

Unprecedented numbers of 1st Durbanville scouts attended the camp from 10 to 15 January 2022 and our Troop Scouter, Johann Visser (aka Guppie), and his team had their work cut out for them. Sailing was everyone's priority and our boat's new sails were properly baptized by the time the camp drew to an end.



Apart from the fleet of kayaks and sup boards which were at the disposal of our scouts, they also built a raft on which many a happy hour was spent. Many of the juniors successfully completed the Map Reading Scoutcraft badge which was run on camp by Guppie and a team of seniors.

Our six patrols each had a turn to cook for everyone and on the last night a formal banquet with a "Star Wars" theme was held. Amidst great hilarity and high jinx, skits were demanded as forfeits for failing to

adhere to a number of "Star Wars" terminologies and table rules.

All too soon it was time to pack up, lower the flag and head for Durbanville. A sunburnt, exhausted and happy troop made quick work of unpacking all the equipment at the scout hall and then it was home to cool showers, mom's cooking and comfortable beds.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



# founder's day

Scouts from all over the Western Cape flocked to the 1st Durbanville scout group precinct on Sunday, 20 February 2022 as they celebrated Founder's Day in remembrance of Lord Robert-Baden Powell, the founder of the worldwide scouting movement.



In founding the Scout movement, Lord Baden-Powell believed that the Scout aims of building good citizens by developing character, citizenship and healthy minds and bodies, using unique scouting methods would help "create a better world" for all. He felt that by training and empowering young people to expand their horizons, gain valuable life skills, acquire sound morals and values, and learn by doing in an atmosphere of kindness and

encouragement, we could all learn to work together to leave this world a better place than how we found it. Today, the Scout Movement continues to create positive change in over 160 countries. The 1st Durbanville precinct is the perfect venue to make this a reality for our local youth and the wider community.

The BP Sunday celebrations are held annually close to Lord Baden-Powell's birthday, which is on 22 February, to honour the achievements of our members over the past year.





# founder's day

The BP Sunday celebrations are held annually close to Lord Baden-Powell's birthday, which is on 22 February, to honour the achievements of our members over the past year. Leaping Wolves, Springbok Scouts, Gold Star Meerkats, BP Awards, as well as other forms of recognition are bestowed upon our members who work tirelessly to be prepared and to make a difference within their communities.

- 1 6th Rondebosch
- 2 2nd Bergvliet
- 3 1st Muizenberg
- 4 1st Claremont
- 5 1st Durbanville
- 6 Durbanville Kraaifontein
- 7 2nd Plumstead
- 8 1st Bergvliet
- 9 2nd Somerset West
- 10 1st Pinelands

The annual Tonkin Trophy for scouting excellence is awarded to the top Scout group in the Western Cape Region. It takes into account the successes of all the branches of a Scout group, namely the Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts and Rovers in order to determine the best all round scout group. First place was taken by 6th Rondebosch, 2nd Bergvliet came second and 1st Muizenberg came third.



Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member





# lifesaver badge course



The Lifesaver badge course started the water based courses off for the year. We were very fortunate to have two professional life guards in Kyle Corbett and Kate Biggs staffing and passing on their knowledge.

Two venues were used being a training session at the lovely Kirstenhof Primary School pool and Long Beach at Simon's Town for the final evaluations.

On Saturday Kyle and Kate were very busy demonstrating and checking that all Scouts were doing the various tasks correctly.

Surprisingly, an ambulance arrived at the course but this was prearranged with Kyle's partners from the Hout bay volunteer EMS group to do CPR training.



On Sunday the weather was not kind to us at Long Beach but this did not stop the various rescue techniques that were taught on the Saturday, being put into practice. This included the knee board rescue of a conscious person.

We ended off the weekend with an enlightening tour of the NSRI station 10, Simon's Town to see what real heroes do.

A big thank you to Kyle and Kate for passing on their knowledge. Thanks to the other instructors for helping out on the land and in cold water.

It was a great weekend, and we are most definitely looking forward to the next Lifesaver badge course in October.

Robert Schmid - Regional Water Activities Training



# lifesaver badge course





# scout shows

Way back in May 1973 Mr Jim Fouche, who was the State President of South Africa and National Patron of the Boy Scouts of South Africa, attended the Cape Western Scout Show. It was a Gala Performance held at the Green Point Civic Centre and he was their guest of honour. Mr Fouche served as ceremonial head of state from 1968 to 1975, with the Prime Minister holding the executive powers of government. The first Cape Western Scout Show was held in the Cape Town City Hall in 1953 and was based on the Gang Shows, as they were known in the UK. These enormously popular London shows were directed and produced by Ralph Reader who generously agreed to supply his comprehensive programme material to SA Scouting. From the very beginning, the local shows had been produced by Frank "Kudu" Quinn with Eric "Impie" Bryant and Eric Day as assistant producers and Clarrie Muller as musical director. The 1973 show had a cast of 70 Scouts and with 14 items on the programme. Performances were held in the Joseph Stone Auditorium in Athlone, Green Point and Bellville Civic Centres and Somerset West, eight shows in total.

The 1954 production went on tour and held performances in Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Boksburg, Johannesburg, Durban, East London and Port Elizabeth. A review from the Edenvale Advertiser reported: "Undoubtedly, the most outstanding event in Reef Scouting this week has been the visit of the Cape Western Scout Show; and I was one of the many hundreds of East Randites who flocked to the Boksburg Town Hall on Friday evening to see one the slickest, funniest, happiest concerts I have ever attended". Records in the Scout Archives end with the 12th show being run in 1981, directed by Mickey Lowther, accompanist Clarrie Muller and the cast was made up of Scouts from 1st Bothasig, Don Bosco, 1st Claremont, 1st Crossroads, 3rd Gugulethu, 1st Ikhwezi, 2nd Kenridge, 1st Pinelands, 2nd Pinelands, 3rd Pinelands and 1st Somerset West.

Stuart Ravenscroft - The Archivist, Scout Museum and Heritage Centre





# pioneering badge course



The Pioneering Scoutcraft badge course had a huge number of participants being over 80 Scouts so the course had to be split between the 1st Claremont and 1st Bergvliet Scout halls. This made the logistics solved by Daniel le Jeune, Joseph Hansen and David Knight all the more challenging.

Daniel did a great job in getting all the admin done and ran a superb course on the day with great organisation. Most Scouts successfully completed the course but some Scouts needed to complete a few items with their Troop Scouter.

Many thanks to David, Daniel and Joseph for having this course totally taped.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme





# rayner trophy

This year's Rayner saw 23 teams hike from the top of Du Toit's Kloof Pass to the Suurvlake where they overnighted. The following day started with a 5.8km loop from the Krom River Hut that saw teams split into two groups, one ascending via Krom River Peak and the other, Krom River Dome. The teams then met in the middle before descending the same route that the other groups ascended. Back at the hut, the patrols made their way back to the Du Toit's Kloof Pass before descending the ridge down to Hawequas. It was a challenging yet rewarding route, and not one for the faint hearted.





# rayner trophy

Bases ranged from the traditional 'Scout Law' and 'Scout Promise' activities to those adapted from game shows. 'Dices and Darks' saw the PL roll 5 dice and having 3 turns to get a score (the same way one would play Yatzy). Once having rolled, the other patrol members needed to throw darts and get an average score equal to the score that was rolled. More challenging questionnaire oriented bases challenged the



scout's knowledge on the history of the Rayner Trophy (Who was the first Chief Judge?), general knowledge (What is the antipode of Cape Town?) and Scout Knowledge, (Who is the current Chief Scout?). The variety of bases rewarded those who were not only "scout-skill-savvy" but also those who could critically think and solve problems.





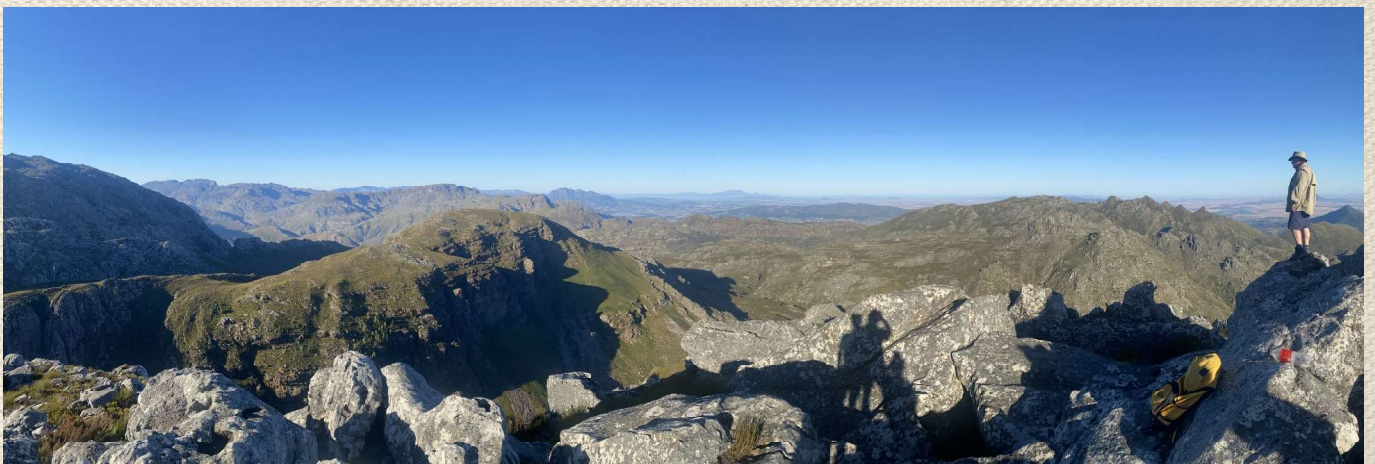
# rayner trophy

Thank you to all the teams for making this a memorable competition especially 1st George, 1st Knysna and Jayden Charakupa from 1st Walmer in Port Elizabeth. Thank you for making the long journey to be a part of the competition.

A big thank you to all the judges who assisted in judging the event. A special thanks to:

- Lawrence Stanton for his input to many aspects of the planning.
- Kuba Miszewski for ensuring permissions and assisting with the route.
- Dylan Ribbans for acting as a second in command and assisting with pre-competition and on-the-day logistics.
- Lastly, a massive thank you to Nigel Forshaw for his guidance and support. The Region would not provide such incredible events without his ongoing commitment to the Regional Scout Programme.

Jóhann Harzon - Rayner Chief Judge





# rayner trophy





# winning rayner pl's thoughts



Rayner 2022 was by far the most enjoyable Rayner that I have participated in. This year's Chief Judge, Jóhann Harzon did an amazing job of picking the hiking route and coordinating all the necessary judges to be where they were needed to be at the right time. The route, starting at the top of Du Toits Kloof pass to the Suurvlaakte on the first day and conquering Krom River Dome and Krom River peak back down to Hawequas. The second day was challenging enough to push our limits while still being enjoyable. The route also ensured there was enough water so that we all stayed hydrated in the 35° melting heat of the final afternoon.

The views from the bases all along the two peaks were incredible and it is definitely an experience I will never forget. The judges at the bases were really well prepared and equipped with information that was needed to be given to us regarding the base at hand. It was also nice to see younger judges that I knew as fellow scouts come out and get involved in judging competitions such as Rayner. My team and I had an amazing time in the outdoors and can't wait to get back out there next year!

Hudson Sayers - Winning Rayner PL - 2nd Fish Hoek

## kanonkop cub district fun day

DK was proud to host the Kanonkop District Fun day on 26 February at their hall. The theme was carnival. Cubs from the Kanonkop district and Paarl competed in fun games and challenges – including sack races, wheelbarrow races and bean bag tossing as well as an obstacle course.

Cubs from 2nd Kenridge, 1st Durbanville, 1st Paarl and DK had their faces painted and enjoyed carnival treats from the tuck shop.

Thank-you to Megan Smith and the DK rovers for organising this awesome event!

Angela Hillier - RTC Meerkat Programme





# tokai park alien clearing



Our Tokai alien vegetation clearing project is dedicated to uprooting Stink Bean from the lower Tokai Park to allow indigenous plants to grow freely and prosper. Stink Bean is an alien plant species indigenous to Australia and multiplies rapidly and takes over other vegetation by blocking out sunlight needed for the Fynbos and other indigenous plants that live under its canopy. 2nd Fish Hoek Scouts has cleared almost two thirds of the Stink Bean in Tokai Park. The Fynbos is already making

a comeback and is flourishing. The goal for the project is to finish clearing the Stink Bean and once finished we will move onto other alien species in the Park.

Through this project we hope to maintain Tokai's natural beauty, as well as its large range of wildlife and to preserve the future of Tokai's plant life.

Nathan Sayers - 2nd Fish Hoek Scout Troop (Ed. Nathan is 15 and is an APL)





# helmsman badge course

Helmsman 2022 was held on the weekends of 12, 13, 26 and 27 February this year. Typically, this course is held at the Sea Scout Base in Lakeside with the sailing training taking place on Zandvlei itself. Sadly, due to high levels of e-coli, Zandvlei was closed for public use. However, in true Scouting form a plan was made and through the coordinating efforts of our Regional Coordinator Water Activities in the Western Cape, Craig Burchell-Burger, an alternative venue was secured. So, the course was moved to the Naval Sailing Centre in Simon's Town.

This gave our Scouts the opportunity to extend their sailing skills to sailing on the sea.



All sailing took place in the bay area between the naval docks and Long Beach. The weather conditions varied from north-easterly, westerly, and south-easterly during the course which exposed them to a decent variety of conditions. From racing practice in little to no wind (seemingly more intense than in stronger winds), to ideal conditions for

practicing sailing drills such as coming alongside, man overboard, and capsize drills. There was also a very strong prevailing south-easter with gusts up to 30 knots which gave the Scouts the opportunity to learn how to reef their main sail and to give them first-hand experience and confidence on how to better handle a boat and crew in strong winds.





# helmsman badge course

A course like this is not possible without the valuable contribution our team of sailing instructors provide in training Scouts on how to handle a boat and crew as a Helmsman. Scouts learn important tips from them to get a sailing boat to where they need the boat to go. Along with the instructors, the skippers and crew of the safety boats are a critical support team on the water. They aided helmsman and crew when needing assistance and when finding scouts in situations beyond their current capabilities.



I personally love teaching Scouts to sail as it introduces them to many great self-confidence building skills such as special awareness and sense of direction, weather knowledge, shipshape habits, accountability, bravery, and toughness. My favourite however is in the moment of trouble shooting that involves deciding on a plan of action quickly and then communicating that to their crew so they can work together to help achieve an objective. Sailing comes with rules that, depending on a scenario, may come with a

cascading set of decisions a helmsman will have to make, sometimes very quickly as the stronger the wind the quicker a scenario will change. Controlling a boat under sail to prevent collisions or making it perform optimally is far different to controlling a car or motorboat. A Scout needs to learn the physics of motion on water and the various forces acting on the boat. Scenario based decision making based on observations is a great skill for any Scout to learn and is a strength in any leadership role, including leading a patrol.

Skills development comes with practice, and sailing competence comes with time on the water to gain more experience. This year's batch of helmsman trainees need to get out onto the water to clock up their required hours on the helm to be eligible to receive the prestigious Helmsman Interest badge.

David Bosch - Helmsman Course Leader and TS 1st Muizenberg





# adventures in neverland

DK and 1st Paarl cubs joined the Adventures in Neverland as they camped at the Sea Scout Base in Lakeside. Together they discovered that "All the world is made of faith, and trust, and pixie dust."

Cubs enjoyed making model boats with rubber band propellers and learning all about the parts of boats as they prepared to one day be scouts. A definite highlight was the campfire led by Peter Pan and the very entertaining Campfire skits.



Thanks to Mr and Mrs Darling, no one in Neverland went hungry.

As the weekend drew to a close no one wanted to say goodbye as Peter Pan always says, "Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting".

Angela Hillier - SGL Durbanville Kraaifontein





# meerkat kon-tiki pirates

On Kon-tiki Sunday, fifty Meerkats from all over the WC descended on the IYC at Zandvlei and transformed it into a Pirate Kingdom. Assisted by their eager families, they made pirate hats, build rafts that sailed from recycling material, learnt how to play "Walk the Deck" and most exciting of all, raced on land rafts with poles. The Meerkats sailed from base to base and proved themselves to be excellent pirates. Dens manning the ship were 1st Bothasig, 1st Claremont, 1st Durbanville, Durbanville-Kraaifontein, 1st Muizenberg, 6th Rondebosch.

Many thanks to "Captain" Marihett Bredenkamp for organising the event, to the Regional Meerkat Support Team and all the Den Scouters, Assistant Den Scouters and parents. There will be more Regional events to come.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont





# on my pl's discoverer hike

So I started off before the hike waking up really early so we could print the consent form. Then when we got there there was still no one to sign the witness on the consent form so we got the person at security to sign the witness on the consent



form. Before the hike I got two point five litres of water and thought it was enough, but it wasn't. We started off the hike going the long way to the Protea Trail so that we could reach ten kilometres.

We had our first break about half way up to the first view point and that's when I decided to start saving my water. At the first view point we had a break again, it was an amazing view. We had another break near the second view point when I started to realise how hot it was, it felt like someone threw me into boiling water. I started putting loads of sunscreen on. We got to an area with lots of trees which means tons of shade. There was a stream of water that was freezing cold and it was amazing to splash it on my face and fill my water bottle.

Even though I didn't want to leave the cool forest area we had to get to the peak. We left and I still felt fine until we got to the final bit of the saddle we got extremely hot and I could barely walk. My neck was burnt and there was no shade in sight. We found a shady area but the sun was still shining, so I decided to tie my jacket to the tree it blocked the sun and was perfect for shade. We got to the peak and it was windy and cool there. Eventually we had to leave and we went down. I was out of water and extremely thirsty, and we went down the Orange Trail instead of going down the gorge so we couldn't refill our water.

We were all very tired from the heat. I brought money so I could get an ice cream and at the end there was no ice cream, at the end I had already put on sunscreen twelve times. At the bottom I took off my shoes and tried to stay in shade. While I was hiking I kept on thinking I brought too much water and then thinking I brought too little.



James Sprowson - Scout 1st Somerset West (Ed. James is 11 years old)



# cub kon-tiki competition

While the Kon-Tiki Raft teams complete their STAs and the fringe teams battle it out on the volleyball court - the Cubs of the Western Cape gather to practice and get ready for when it is their turn to join the Kon-Tiki team.

This year the Cubs and Brownies met to compete in the annual "Cub and Brownie Kon-Tiki Competition". The event comprised a series of bases themed on surviving the apocalypse where two Packs competed against each other in games of physical skill, mental prowess and luck. The Cubs and Brownies lived up to their motto of "do your best" and put every ounce of effort they had into all the activities. I was especially proud of how well behaved they all were.

During the lunch break the Cubs and Brownies managed to complete very interesting solar art drawings where they used shadows to create line drawings.

The day eventually came to an end. The cubs helped clean up, pack away and eagerly awaited the results of the competition. The points were close. A huge well done to 2nd Hout Bay for taking first place.

1st place - 2nd Hout Bay  
2nd Place - 2nd Bergvliet (Toomai)  
3rd Place - 1st Bergvliet  
4th Place - 1st Monte Vista  
5th Place - 1st Muizenberg

With the competition at an end, we wait eagerly for next year where we can all meet again to compete in another awesome Kon-Tiki competition.

Richard Steinhofel - APS 2nd Bergvliet





# hiking foods - always hungry



Having hiked and lead parties for many years, I got tired of boring meals, of being hungry and having to carry way too many heavy items! I started developing hike menus, from simple weekend to multi day hikes.

Some parameters to help in the process are:

- "A meal is an event, not just a loading operation".
- The menu needs to have a high protein value.
- Group catering is the only way to go, each person carries less and not everyone has to carry pots and

stoves – and it's fun all sitting together cooking a common meal.

- Dinner needs to be a three course meal – starter, main course and a dessert.
- Breakfast can be a multi meal affair – depending on the hike, in some cases tea/coffee and a rusk at first light to get moving and then a stop mid-morning for a full breakfast.
- Lunches can be light with some fresh crispy items added – cucumbers and cherry tomatoes last for up to ten days if carried carefully and kept out of the sun – radishes are also great!

Be creative, you can make your own pasta and sauces by drying beef or chicken mince in your oven at home after cooking it first. Couscous is a great base, and in summer can be carried with a bit of water in a zip lock bag from lunch time and it will be ready when you arrive at your overnight campsite. One can add sun dried tomatoes and pesto to your couscous and smoked chicken pieces or bacon bits. Both can be carried if vacuum packed for a few days – but keep it in the middle of your pack and away from the sun!

Another dehydrated easy meal is soya mince, with either rice, smash or couscous. Add a few slivers of red/green peppers and a bit of garlic, one can get vacuum packed pitted olives which are also get to add to most meals. To be an "Event" the food must be plated nicely - there is nothing more satisfying than sitting all together after a good day's hiking, watching a great sunset and eating a beautiful meal!





# hiking foods - always hungry

There are some great locally produced freeze-dried meals – have a look at Mama Alles (<https://mamaalles.com>) and Everfresh (<https://foreverfresh.co.za>) meals. On my hikes I tend to bulk these meals up with carbs mentioned above.

Don't forget snacks – lots of snacks – nuts, dried mango, trail mix - you can make it yourself and energy bars.

Make sure your party is hydrated – there are lots of good, powdered drinks on the market. Happy eating makes happy hikers!

Kuba Miszewski - Regional Hiking Advisor and Hawequas Manager

## tree felling at gugulethu

A big thank you to Sipho Ncapayi and his group of Scout volunteers who offered their help to fell two small gum trees in the parking area adjacent to the Gugulethu Scout Centre on Saturday 19th March. The entire job was carried out in just over two hours and the gum trees that were removed had been planted too close to the boundary walls resulting in damage. The weather was perfect with almost no wind. It was a happy occasion and the team spirits were high!

There are still two very large gum trees that need to be felled as they have become rather dangerous and have also been planted too close to the boundary wall!

We have appointed a professional tree feller to handle this work as it is a rather high risk!

Aussie Raad - Regional Property Representative





# kon-tiki apocalypse

Our weekend at Kon-Tiki was amazing, and I'm so glad I had the privilege of leading our troop in such a competition at least once! As soon as we got going with construction, we could feel the vibes of the past years coming back. The hustle and bustle of people, the organized chaos that is a raft and the vibe that everyone brings, as well as seeing past scouts who came by to say hi. As we got into the rhythm of things, everyone calmed down, and we ended up



making the highest standard of raft I've seen at scouts. Everyone was really proud of what we'd made, and our juniors were motivated to do their best on the fringe teams.



Once we launched the raft, we were almost bored before the STAs started rolling in. We stayed up all night making cities in a bottle, papier-mâché 3D maps of Muizenberg, "radioactive" slime, world maps with apocalyptic events and much more, while also making

dinner on our gas stove, handing everything in to judge on land by canoe. In the morning there was a social STA where we needed to go around to different rafts and find information from them, and that was a high point for most of us, knowing each other from previous events.

The tender race was a great way to round off our time on the raft, even though the wind was really strong and the soap from washing off the vlei water got into our eyes but Matt and I were really happy to manage third place nevertheless.



# kon-tiki apocalypse

Once back on land and the raft was disassembled and final parade started. Anticipation was high, and hope and doubt were circling through my stomach. We started getting worried when 1st Hermanus had won a few aspects of the competition, but as soon as we won both the McEwan Shield for our construction, and the Safmarine Trophy for STAs, we knew that we were definitely in the running. We listened to the top 10 being called out, and as soon as we were in the top 3, we all started looking at each other in disbelief. Being called up as a patrol was the highest point I think I will ever have at a scout competition.

Josh Vincent - Winning Kon-Tiki PL - 2nd Bergvliet



Above photo: Rodger February





# the golden mole route hike



After a long time, it was time to get ourselves out and about and see what Nature was all about again. We decided to take on The Golden Mole Route at Tygerberg Nature Reserve.



What a beautiful morning we woke up to. The party comprised Meerkats, Cubs, Scout Instructors, Scouters, parents, grandparents and siblings. With so much excitement Kaa (Benjy du Toit) led the group on the trail. It was not just a hike. We had printed maps and Kaa and Tin-Tin (Scout Chris Powell) showed the group how to use the map and the details on the map. A few cubs brought compasses with them and they were excited to learn how to use them.

Some cubs brought binoculars and were looking to see if they could spot birds. We had a half way stop to have some of our healthy snacks and some icy water.



It was then time to work our way back to the start but the party was unaware as to what lay ahead of them - uphill. This did not stop them and much fun and excitement was had. All they wanted to know was when is our next hike.

Charmaine de Kock - PS 1st Table View



# bronze president's award

The Bronze President's Award was recently presented to 1st Durbanville scout, Daniel Wilbraham (age 14). He completed all the requirements for the award in December 2021 and on 28 January this year he received the award.

The President's Award consists of three levels, namely bronze, silver, and gold and each of these levels comprises four to five requirements. There are age restrictions per level as well as specific time frames in which applicants must complete all the requirements.



Several activities which form part of the scout advancement programme can be used towards the requirements for the President's Award. The minimum age for the Bronze level is 14 and the requirements have to be achieved over a six-month period. These include a service project, a skill, a physical recreation activity and an adventurous journey. Daniel holds the Discoverer advancement and has almost completed the First Class advancement. These advancements enabled him to qualify for two of the biggest requirements for the bronze level being the service

project and the adventurous journey.

For the service component, Daniel served his scout group by signing up as a cub instructor with the cub pack for six months. In addition, he made and distributed sandwiches to the homeless and also did several neighbourhood and beach clean-ups over a period of six months.

His adventurous journey took the form of the Hike Leader interest badge which he successfully completed in October of 2021. This took the form of a hike over two consecutive days in the Limietberg Nature Reserve in the Du Toitskloof Mountains. The overnight component of the hike was spent sleeping in the veld.

For the skill component, Daniel successfully completed the Trinity Piano Grade Four exam. Daniel's recreational activity component was horse riding. He is an accomplished rider and he chose to improve his techniques in certain areas of this sport over a six-month period.

The President's Award is a leading structured youth development programme, empowering youth aged 14 to 24 to explore their full potential and find their purpose, passion and place in the world, regardless of their location or circumstance. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation oversees the President's Award programme in over 130 countries and territories globally. The Award gives youth an opportunity to talk about themselves in a non-academic way and equips young people to become well-rounded responsible citizens.

Daniel is looking forward to enrolling for the Silver level as soon as he turns 15 this year.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



# springbok scouts

We congratulate our latest Springbok Scouts who are:



Charles Carter  
2nd Rondebosch



Oliver Faure  
2nd Rondebosch



Sheth Ashley Cooper  
9th/16th Cape Town



Thomas Ashworth  
2nd Hout Bay



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